# **WX Press Release**



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## **WX ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Board Appoints New Leadership and Welcomes New Board of Directors: Jean Marie Apruzzese, Livia Corredor, Jennifer Schwartzman and Officers Beth Zafonte, Sonia Bain and Ellen Kendall

**NEW YORK, NY—WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate (WX)** is pleased to announce its **2018-2019 Board of Directors**, to be led by **President Beth Zafonte**, Director of Economic Development Services, Akerman LLP and **Vice President Sonia Bain**, Partner, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP. WX promotes the advancement of women in real estate, enhances the public perception of women in the industry and promotes professionalism, ethics and integrity in the field. This is the first term for both Ms. Zafonte and Ms. Bain. **Ellen Kendall**, Adjunct Professor, Rutgers University, will serve as Secretarial Officer.

The Board also welcomes a group of new member Directors. **Jean Marie Apruzzese**, Partner and Chief Operating Officer at DRA Advisors LLC, will chair the WX organization's Networking & Special Events Committee; **Livia M. Corredor**, New York Counsel at Forest City Ratner Companies, will chair the Philanthropy Committee; and **Jennifer Schwartzman**, Senior Managing Director, Newmark Knight Frank, will chair the Scholars Program Committee.

## Returning Board members include

**Suzanne St. Pierre**, Venable LLP, **Laura Rapaport**, L&L Holding Company, LLC, **Pat Hauserman**, AECOM Tishman, **Ione Wilsmann**, Beechcroft Partners, **Miriam Harris**, Trinity Place Holdings, and Ellen Kendall, Rutgers University.

#### **About Beth Zafonte**

Beth Zafonte has 30 years of experience in the practice of Economic Development Incentives throughout the United States representing a broad range of national and locally based private developers, various Fortune 500 corporations, and manufacturing concerns on a national basis. She represents both public and privately held companies, as well as institutions, in connection

with location and real estate decisions specifically related to determining eligibility for, and the procurement of, economic development incentives and real estate financing.

#### **About Sonia Bain**

Sonia Bain is a transactional commercial real estate lawyer who represents developers, retail companies, hotel groups, landlords and tenants, and family offices with acquisitions, dispositions, development, ground and space leases, financing and leasing of numerous types of commercial real estate assets including mixed-use, residential, retail, hotel and industrial properties in New York City and also across the country. Clients value Ms. Bain for her thoughtful guidance, counsel and partnership; often coming to her to think through strategies and help them make decisions that are best for their business. Ms. Bain is there for her clients for more than just their real estate legal needs.

## **About Ellen Kendall**

Over a distinguished 35-year career, Ellen Kendall has built a reputation for accomplishment in the real estate investment management industry, distinguishing herself across a range of disciplines from law to marketing and sales to product development. She recently retired from her position as Managing Director and Global Head of Product Development at PGIM Real Estate, where she worked for 24 years in various global leadership roles, including Chief Legal Officer for the firm, Chair of the firm's Global Product Committee and member of the Global Management Committee. Before that, she was an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York.

## **About Jean Marie Apruzzese**

Jean Marie Apruzzese serves as Partner and Chief Operating Officer of DRA Advisors LLC. DRA is currently a \$10 billion Investment Advisory firm with more than 80 associates and specializes in value-add US real estate. Ms. Apruzzese has been with DRA for 24 years. She started in Portfolio Management and has continued to help grow the organization since its inception. Her current duties include overseeing all operations of the firm, including Asset Management, Portfolio Management, HR and IT, as well as is involved in the executive of large transactions.

### **About Livia Corredor**

Livia Corredor has been a practicing real estate attorney for more than 30 years, including with Forest City Ratner Companies as in-house counsel for the last 10 years. With a strong foundation in traditional real estate buying, selling, and leasing, Ms. Corredor built her practice on real estate financing, including conventional financing, municipal bond financing, low-income housing tax credits and securitizations. In her current position, she is co-head of the legal department and leads legal support efforts for development and finance teams.

#### **About Jennifer Schwartzman**

Jennifer Schwartzman focuses on investment sales in the New York Metropolitan region. She has been involved in the marketing and sale of major development sites and investment properties in Manhattan and the greater New York area. Ms. Schwartzman joined NKF Capital Markets in 1999, working on acquisition, disposition and renewal transactions in the New York

region. Prior to joining NKF Capital Markets, Ms. Schwartzman worked for the city of Bridgeport, Connecticut in economic development.

# About WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate

WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate is an association of executive-level women actively engaged in the commercial real estate industry in New York. The mission of WX is to promote the advancement of women in commercial real estate; to enhance public perception about the role of women in the industry; and to promote the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity in the field. Through educational seminars, breakfasts with industry leaders, mentoring programs, scholarships, and special events, WX provides members with a forum for visibility and exchange, spotlights the accomplishments of individual women in the industry, and paves the way for the next generation of women in the field. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.wxnyre.org">www.wxnyre.org</a>.